

Serial No.: 09/432,820
Filing Date: 2 November 1999

In the Claims:

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Please cancel claims 34-40, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows:

24. (Amended) A method of detecting the presence of antibodies to virulent

Mycobacterium in a biological sample, said method comprising:

combining said sample with a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, a Mycobacterial homolog thereof or an antigenic determinant thereof; and detecting antibodies bound to said protein;

wherein said Mycobacterium is *M. bovis*, *M. tuberculosis*, *M. leprae*, *M. africanum*, *M. microti*, *M. avium*, *M. intracellulare* or *M. scrofulaceum*.

25. (Amended) The method of Claim 24, wherein said Mycobacterium is *M. bovis*.

41. (Amended) A method of detecting the presence of Mycobacterium in a biological sample, said method comprising;

lysing the cells in said sample;

combining said lysate with antibodies to a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or an antigenic determinant thereof; and detecting said antibodies bound to protein in said lysate;

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wherein said Mycobacterium is *M. bovis*, *M. tuberculosis*, *M. leprae*, *M. africanum*, *M. microti*, *M. avium*, *M. intracellulare* or *M. scrofulaceum*.

42. (Amended) The method of Claim 41, wherein said Mycobacterium is *M. bovis*.

Please add the following new claims:

51. (New) The method of Claim 24, wherein said Mycobacterium is *M. tuberculosis*.

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52. (New) The method of Claim 41, wherein said Mycobacterium is *M. tuberculosis*.